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# A SINGER OF TOMORROW.

## Miss Alice Mallon.

Perhaps it is not quite correct to call Miss Alice Mallon, A.M.U.A., a singer of to-morrow, for she sings very charmingly to-day—"sings," be it remembered, with a touch of joy in the singing, which is a very different thing from mere "vocalizing." She has sung, she said during a brief interview to a representative of The Register on Friday, as long as she can remember. "All my people sang, you see," she added, "and my mother was musical." What she said of that mother reminded one a little of what Percy Grainger, the composer pianist, said of his mother—"She has not had extensive musical training, but she did possess the power of evoking music from almost any instrument." Miss Mallon said, "Of course, my



MISS ALICE MALLON.

mother had had no lessons since she left school, but there was more in her piano playing—more real music—than you hear from many who have worked hard for years." Still, so many people promise this young Australian a great career in opera, that, after all, it is not wrong to link her name with the future. Though she has been educated in South Australia, Miss Mallon was born in Perth, Western Australia. She came to Adelaide as a child in 1911, and was educated at the Dominican Convent, North Adelaide. While still at school she began her studies for the A.M.U.A. degree at the Adelaide University, and completed them successfully in 1923. Since then she has been teaching, but always she has had a longing to take up other work, and has been attracted by opera. That was her dream—one which she was ready to work hard to accomplish. It is said that dreams come true for those who keep to the same one and wish hard enough. Quite unexpectedly the chance of the first step has come to Miss Mallon.

### A Great Opportunity.

Working hard counts, as no one can deny, but play helps too. It was during a holiday in Melbourne, when Miss Mallon was staying at the Occidental Hotel as the guest of friends who had taken her over for a trip, that some one who knew the value of her voice happened to hear her singing. He was a member of the firm of J. C. Williamson, Limited, and was so much interested that he obtained an introduction and asked to be allowed to arrange that she should be heard by Dame Nellie Melba.

"How did you feel before the ordeal?" she was asked. "Nervous, wound up," was the reply; "but anxious to do well, and conscious that I was out of practice. I had been rushing about and sightseeing and holiday-making, and had not sung a note save for amusement since I started on my holiday. But it was my chance."

"One hears of people 'singing to Melba.' Just what happened?" asked the interviewer. "I was taken to the Albert Street Conservatorium. There had been doubt whether Madame Melba would be able to be there, as she had been ill with bronchitis, but we heard that she had come in to town. Still, her time is valuable, so I had to sing first to a member of the staff. On her report Melba herself came into the room. Mr. Fritz Hart (director of the Conservatorium) played my accompaniment. I sang a little thing called 'Morning,' by Oley Speaks. Melba was most kind. She said that my voice had great possibilities if I had the opportunity, and worked hard." Miss Mallon's friends had promised that if Melba gave a favourable verdict she should have 12 months' study at the Melbourne Conservatorium and she hopes if it is possible, to go on after that to Italy for further training but that will depend

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Hopes and Plans. "I am fearfully keen on operatic work," said Miss Mallon enthusiastically, "and always have been. I have had no stage experience except that I was one of the two Adelaide girls who 'went on' with Seymour Hicks. It was no speaking part but it is something to have been on the stage. Everything counts. For the rest, I have been on school platforms, and have done a good deal of singing for charities in and about Adelaide." Miss Mallon might have added that she has sung at Conservatorium concerts, and given several of the soprano solos in Handel's "Judas Maccabaeus" at the silver jubilee of the Conservatorium choral class. She is an only child, her father is an invalid, and she has to stand on her own feet, dependant upon herself for future success, but seems to be facing the future with the right spirit. She hopes, if she can go on to Italy, to return and take a position in the J. C. Williamson Grand Opera Company. In the meantime she will study at the Albert street Conservatorium, and intends to stay at the Melbourne University residential hall—St. Mary's Hall. In addition to her musical studies she will take English as her subject at the University. French and Italian are part of the Conservatorium course. So the year 1925 should be a busy and momentous time for this young singer. Miss Mallon is to study under Miss Mary Campbell, who has just returned from a trip abroad, and is highly spoken of by Melba. Being keen over lawn tennis, and gifted with a strong physique, Miss Mallon should make good use of the chance that has come her way, and it is to be hoped that the concert at the Adelaide Town Hall on Saturday, February 28, which will practically launch her on her career, will be successful in every way, especially financially.

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## EAST AND THE WEST.

### Present Strained Relations.

#### Views of Mr. F. Kunz.

An ominous warning of the increasing strain in the relations between Eastern and Western peoples is voiced by the young American scholar and lecturer, Mr. Fritz Kunz, B.A., who is in Adelaide for a few days.

Mr. Kunz is visiting Australia first of all in the interests of the Theosophical Society. He holds the view that, in addition to teaching comparative religion and encouraging brotherhood and interest in the powers latent in man, this society is doing a wonderful work, and one of special timeliness, in bringing about a rapprochement between the East and the West.

"One must remember," Mr. Kunz said to a representative of The Register on Friday, "that a far greater disaster is ahead of humanity in the way of strife and bloodshed if there is not a better effort made by Western peoples to under-



MR. FRITZ KUNZ, B.A., the noted American Scholar and Lecturer.

stand the Orientals. A war in which the East is armed and encouraged by Russia, which is meant to bring about a coalition of Oriental forces against the white races, would be on a scale which would make the last great European war

seem trifling. A cataclysm would arise out of India's racial prejudice, aggravated by religious bigotry, such a war would be more savage and extensive than any conflict we have yet seen."

#### Matter of Great Concern.

Asked whether he thought such a possibility was imminent, Mr. Kunz replied emphatically—"It is far closer than the average man realizes, and is a matter of concern to statesmen all the world over; but they do not know the way to avoid it. The other day Dr. Sun Yat Sen said that he looked forward to a coalition of all Eastern Powers. Russia has signed a treaty with Japan, and you will notice that this was close on the heels of my own country's stupid and brutal treatment of Japan; but Russia's treaty with China is near to us. Japan is no longer asking to be a Western Power, but is conciliating Chinese feeling with a view to control there; the present war between Abd-El-Krim and Spain in the Rif is being watched with intense interest by the Moslem world, and one could go on at great length, showing that the East is feeling its strength. The tragic thing is that a great deal of solemn resentment of the Oriental peoples is perfectly justified. We look upon them as a market, a race of coolies, whereas they have, in the case of China, Japan, and India especially, magnificent civilizations. A few weeks ago, an American trader at Whan Sien was killed in a scuffle with Chinese traders, who declared that he was acting illegally. The commander of a British gunboat, called the Cockchafer, said he would bombard the city unless two Chinese were executed. Accordingly, at dawn, two perfectly innocent Chinamen were executed in exchange for the one American, who, probably, was in the wrong. This sort of thing is not an isolated case, and it is setting the face of the East very definitely against all the European races."

#### The Way Out.

As to his idea of the way out of the impending crisis, Mr. Kunz said, "The sole solution to the problem is to conciliate a free India, because India is the only Asiatic country which is populated by people largely Aryan in blood and tradition, and who have, therefore, a feeling of kinship with the West. Furthermore, although British rule in India has been far from ideal in many ways, the Indian people will feel quite grateful for what has been done for them. If England will only hurry up and give the Indian people dominion home rule in a spirit of friendship, and prevent her from becoming an Ireland on a large scale, India will prevent the East from becoming completely poisoned with resentment. But it must be very soon, because the Indian people in a lesser degree, but in the same manner as other Oriental peoples have been hurt by the arrogance and lack of understanding of the white races." Mr. Kunz added that the Theosophical Society had done more in 50 years to bring East and West together than any other single agency, because of its fraternal interests in Eastern wisdom and its truly brotherly feeling towards all races.

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MISS ELLIE WEMYSS, who took her B.A. degree sometime ago, and her M.A. last year.

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# THE NEWS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1925

## ANGLO-FRENCH PUZZLE

(By Harry Thomson)

Mainly for the reason that the objective world is designed in three dimensions, it is useless to attempt to get identical photographs of the same object from quite different angles. The secret of the problem of most irreconcilables is simply and solely a difference of point of view. That difference may be based on sex, or religion, or nationality, but so long as it lasts it is impossible to talk in a common language because the symbols employed do not mean the same thing.

#### Theory of Values.

A theory of values is meaningless unless the same symbol indicates the same thing. Recognition of that is the first step toward understanding the Anglo-French impasse. For example, it is as useless for the French lawyer to attempt to appreciate the administration of justice in an English court of law, as for an English lawyer to attempt to appreciate the procedure of the examining magistrate in France.

French criminal jurisprudence has grown up under the more or less conscious belief that the only absolutely conclusive proof of guilt is confession. All French criminal procedure is directed toward that end. English law for a great many centuries did its utmost to prevent the accused person speaking at all, and even now hedges about confession with the most drastic safeguards. The slightest inducement by one in authority has often invalidated a confession that would make the magistrate over the Channel almost jump with joy.

#### Debts and Reparations

The newspapers have been full the last few months of talk of Debts and Reparations and Security. Facts for this and that have been foreshadowed—and forgotten. A good deal of it has been guesswork. Kites have been flown—and lost. And in the general chorus, while the air has varied, deep down in the accompaniment has been a constant sub-acid rumble. "Why don't they pay these just debts?" from Great Britain, and "Why should Great Britain let Germany (my security) off with one hand, while pressing me tighter with the other?" from France? Each of these positions is irreconcilable with the other—and each from the particular standpoint of its own author is incontestably right. Here is the case for each in a nutshell:—

Great Britain—"I not only lent you, my dear Suzanne (and also Italy) some hundreds of millions, but I guaranteed your loans from America to the extent of nearly one thousand millions. Debts are debts, old thing. I've been called on by Uncle to pay, and have made arrangements to do so by funding my debts. I love you lots, but still business is business. So what about it?"

#### France's View

France—"My dear, John, you are quite too stupid. Do you really wish me to believe you are a nation of shopkeepers? I know you are much nicer than that really. Did you not, mon cher, sign the Treaty of Versailles, and have you not many times since, by one convention and another, recognised my prior claim to reparations. All this money you advanced went into the war pool on behalf of all of us. I am quite prepared to pay as soon as I receive from Germany. That is the proper security for repayment of our war expenditure. Also, my dear, I want to talk to you first about the much more important subject of security. You wouldn't like your little Suzanne to be trampled on again, old bear, would you? We'll talk about that before these horrid debts. But just now—well, would not you like a little promenade, vieux lapin? We can talk about so much nicer things?"